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Briefs on Diplomatic, Military and Civilian Career,

WALTER BEDELL SMITH

General Smith has had a long career as a soldier, diplomat and administrator in civilian top rank Government posts.

He is one of the few American diplomats who has conferred directly as a representative of the Allied free world powers with Joseph Stalin.

For four and one half years, as a junior officer, he was on loan from the Army to the Bureau of the Budget in Washington, was Assistant to the Chief Coordinator and later was Executive Officer and Deputy Chief Coordinator of the Budget. He also during this period was Executive Vice Chairman of the Federal Liquidation Board that wound up disposition of surplus materials of World War I.

General Smith came into diplomatic prominence in 1945 when he secretly went to Lisbon and, acting for General Eisenhower, negotiated the surrender of Italy, a heavy blow at that time to the German military machine and a great benefit to America and its allies. Later, as General Eisenhower's representative, he signed the surrender documents.

During active operations in Europe he negotiated with the Germans and arranged for the emergency food supply of occupied Holland. Again, acting on behalf of the Supreme Commander, he signed the surrender instruments ending the war with Germany.

The Headquarters of Combined Chiefs of Staff was originally set up by General Smith in 1942 and he was its first U. S. Secretary, previously having been Secretary of the General Staff of the United

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States War Department.

As an infantry combat soldier in France with the 4th Division in World War I, and later as a combat intelligence officer in Washington and in the field, this former Indiana National Guard enlisted man began to acquire the military knowledge for the staff positions he later held. He was graduated from the Infantry School, Command and General Staff School, and the Army War College, and served three tours of duty as instructor at the Infantry School.

His reputation for handling harmoniously intricate and differing views of military and civilian leaders of various nationalities was enhanced when he was appointed Chief of Staff of the European Theater of Operations in September 1942, then as Chief of Staff to General Eisenhower in the North African Theater, and finally as Chief of Staff of SHAEF.

General Eisenhower has said of Smith's service during this period:- "He was a Godsend--a master of detail with clear comprehension of main issues. Serious, hard-working, and loyal, he proved equally as capable in difficult conference as he was in professional activity. Strong in character and abrupt by instinct, he could achieve harmony without appeasement, and earned for himself an enviable standing throughout the armies and governments of Europe."

In 1946 when General Smith was in the process of taking over the Operations Division of the War Department General Staff, a post that General Eisenhower once occupied, he was appointed ambassador to the Soviet Union, remaining in his military status by an Act of Congress, and so served until 25 March 1949. He was a member of the U. S. delegation

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to the Paris Peace Conference and also was the U. S. representative on the Hungarian Treaty Commission. He was one of the U. S. delegation at the Moscow, Paris and London Conferences of Foreign Ministers and was the spokesman for the United States, Great Britain and France at the Moscow Conference with Stalin on the Berlin Blockade.

Returning to the United States in 1949 he was appointed Commanding General of the famous First Army with headquarters on Governors Island, New York, and in October 1950, was called upon to become Director of Central Intelligence--primarily to reorganize the Central Intelligence Agency, America's top agency for the correlation and coordination and dissemination of intelligence.

General Smith was married on 1 July 1917 to Mary Eleanor Cline of Indianapolis, Indiana. He has been seven times decorated by the U. S. Government, including three awards of the DSM and one of the Navy DSM. He has also received high decorations from eleven foreign governments. He holds honorary degrees from seven U. S. and foreign universities.

He was born on 5 October 1895.

He is the author of "Eisenhower's Six Great Decisions," and of a book, "My Three Years in Moscow."

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